

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Office of Fire and Aviation**



# **Operations Alert**

**No. 05-02**

**June 29, 2005**

**Subject:** Use of Single Engine Air Tankers

**Area of Concern:** Current ASM/Lead Plane Procedures

**Discussion:** As usage of Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATs) increases, ASM/Lead plane operational procedures and interactions with SEATs require re-evaluation.

Current ASM/Lead Plane procedures include the traditional lead profile utilized for large airtankers. When operating SEATs, this method used for target acquisition can produce an unsafe flight environment due to the wake turbulence encountered by the SEAT at drop altitudes. Use of the traditional lead profile in SEAT operations is not standard procedure. ASM/Lead Planes not familiar with, and not trained in SEAT operations, should limit themselves to verbal target description, or the “show me” profile.

Further, an understanding of SEAT operational capabilities is critical to a secure flight profile, and will enhance both effectiveness and efficiency. Unfamiliarity with the maneuvering capability of the SEAT may cause loss of Situational Awareness within the incident airspace. ASM/Lead Planes not familiar with, and not trained in SEAT operations, need to be especially aware and conscious of this issue. All ASM/Lead Planes must actively mitigate these hazards during SEAT operations.

Nothing in this alert will diminish the overall operational safety and effectiveness provided by either the ASM or Lead Plane.

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